

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9150

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 182

FOR EMBASSY CAPETOWN; DEPT PASS TO SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP MEETING OF JANUARY 19

REF: USUN 166

1. WESTERN FIVE CONTACT GROUP MET PM JAN. 19 TO DISCUSS
REACTIONS FROM CAPITALS TO THE SCENARIO, FOR PROXIMITY TALKS AT
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FONMIN LEVEL, DESCRIBED REFTEL. ALL CAPITALS ENDORSED SCENARIO
STRONGLY EXCEPT PARIS WHICH EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT IT IS STILL PRE-
MATURE TO CONSIDER PROXIMITY TALKS AT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL. FRENCH HELD
THAT FONMINS SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED, UNTIL THERE IS GREATER
REASON TO SUSPECT SUCCESS IN THE TALKS, LEST THEY RISK BEING REBUKED.
FRENCH SUGGESTED THAT TALKS BEGIN AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL AND BE IN-
CREASED TO FONMIN LEVEL ONLY IF IT APPEARS DURING TALKS THAT SUCH A

MOVE WOULD BE NECESSARY AND LIKELY TO ACHIEVE AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. THE REST OF THE GROUP ARGUED STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED SCENARIO ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS: (A) THE CONCEPT OF TALKS AT FONMIN LEVEL WAS DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE A POSITIVE INCENTIVE TO SOUTH AFRICANS TO REFRAIN FROM UNILATERAL ACTION -- SUCH AN INCENTIVE WOULD BE LOST IN FRENCH PROPOSAL; (B) IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE LOG JAM ON NAMIBIA WILL BE BROKEN WITHOUT TALKS AT FONMIN LEVEL; (C) IT WOULD BE ADMINISTRATIVELY IMPOSSIBLE TO GET FIVE FONMINS TO NEW YORK ON SHORT NOTICE. UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE OPPOSITION, FRENCH AGREED TO CONSULT PARIS AGAIN AND REPORT TOMORROW.

2. GROUP THEN TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF LOCATING A TWO-DAY PERIOD FOR THE PROPOSED TALKS ACCEPTABLE TO THE FIVE FONMINS. GROUP FOCUSED ON THE PERIOD OF FEB. 6-15. US PREFERENCE FOR FEB. 13 AND 14 CONFLICTED WITH EC-9 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING. OTHER PREFERENCES WERE AS FOLLOWS: UK: FEB. 8,9, OR 10 AND RELUCTANTLY 11 AN 12; CANADA: AFTER FEB 10 (POSSIBLY FEB 9); FRG: ONLY FEB 10 AND 11. SINCE FEB 10 AND 11 APPEAR ACCEPTABLE TO CANADA, FRG, UK, AND POSSIBLY FRANCE (WHICH HAD NOT CONSIDERED DATES IN LIGHT OF THEIR POSITION ON ENTIRE SCENARIO), US AGREED TO CONSIDER FURTHER THE DATES OF FEB 10 AND 11. IN BRIEFLY EXPLORING ACCEPTABILITY OF DATES BETWEEN FEB 16 AND 20, GROUP FOUND THAT THOSE DATES ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO BRITISH. AFTER FEB 20: UN SYG WALDHEIM WILL BE UNAVAILABLE, AND AFRICAN PARTICIPATION WILL BE REDUCED BY OAU MINISTERIAL MEETING (STARTING FEB 23).

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3. BEFORE ADJOURNING, GROUP DISCUSSED CAPITALS' VIEWS OF DRAFT COMMUN-

IQUE FOR SA FONMIN BOTHA (REFTEL). ONLY BRITISH HAD DIFFICULTY WITH IT, AND THEIR DIFFICULTY WAS NOT SUBSTANTIVE BUT TONAL. LONDON FELT THAT DRAFT WAS TOO COLD AND AUSTERE. DESPITE CONSIDERABLE LACK OF INTEREST ON PART OF OTHER FOUR, IN BRITISH DESIRE FOR SOME WARMTH IN COMMUNIQUE, GROUP AGREED TO SEVERAL CHANGES IN FIRST, SECOND AND FOURTH SENTENCES. REVISED TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA, FRANCE, FRG, UK AND USA WISH TO RECALL THEIR PROPOSAL THAT TALKS BE HELD IN NY IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT AN AGREEMENT ON THE NAMIBIA QUESTION. THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS HAVE CONSIDERED THE MATTER FURTHER. THEY WISH AGAIN TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TALKS WHICH THEY ARE SEEKING TO ARRANGE WITH THE SA GOVERNMENT AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES AND THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH THESE TALKS PROVIDE FOR ACHIEVING THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT TO WHICH SO MUCH CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT HAS BEEN DEVOTED OVER THE PAST MONTHS.

FOR THESE REASONS, THE FORMINS OF THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS WOULD THEMSELVES HOPE TO MEET WITH FONMIN BOTHA IN NY, AND TO MEET WITH OTHERS CONCERNED, ON CONVENIENT DATES DURING THE PERIOD FEB. (BLANK)

TO (BLANK), IN ORDER TO JOIN IN ACONCERTED EFFORT TO REACH AGREEMENT
ON A SETTLEMENT. THEY ARE PERSUADED THAT ALL CONCERNED MUST CONTRI-
BUTE THEIR BEST EFFORTS TO THE SUCCESS OF THE ENTERPRISE. ACCORDINGLY,

THEIR READINESS TO JOIN THE MEETINGS WOULD BE ON THE UNDERSTANDING
THAT SA WILL ABSTAIN FROM ANY UNILATERAL MEASURES WHICH COULD BE
INTERPRETED AS INCONSISTENT WITH THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN INTERNATION-
ALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT. IN PARTICULAR, THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS
REQUEST THAT THE SA GOVERNMENT REFRAIN FROM ANNOUNCING A DATE FOR
ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA.

THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS LOOK FORWARD TO AN EARLY AND FAVOURABLE
RESPONSE FROM SA AND REAFFIRM THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE
THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE SETTLEMENT TO WHICH ALL PARTIES INVOLVED
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HAVE THUS FAR CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH. UNQUOTE.
YOUNG

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